



# The Mustang

The newsletter of the Myers Park High School PTSA

January 2010

## Principally Speaking

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and look forward to the new year at Myers Park High School.

Despite recent pupil assignment changes, we have much to be thankful for as a school. I continue to be amazed by the uniqueness and diversity of our study population, the talents they bring and the support we receive from our parents and community.

The holidays were an opportunity for our staff and parents to work together to address the basic needs of our students. More than 90 Myers Park families were given support and thus a brighter holiday. What a tremendous blessing for all involved. Special thanks to Phylis Hampson and the PTSA Outreach Committee.

We expect a loss of approximately 300 Middle Years International Baccalaureate students next year due to pupil assignment changes. While it is disheartening to lose so many excellent students and parents, we are using this as an opportunity to review and make improvements within our MYIB and IB programs. Over the next few months, we will share some exciting additions to our programs and will encourage more of our MP zoned students to participate. Myers Park will remain the largest IB program in CMS, will continue to offer the current array of courses and will maintain our excellent IB trained teaching staff.

Due to the recent changes, course registration for 2010-11 will begin earlier this year. We anticipate receiving course registration materials by the first of February. Counselors will immediately begin visiting English classes and meeting individually with students. The process should be completed by the second week of March. Rising ninth graders will be registered after the lottery and their actual assignment to Myers Park – we expect around mid-March. This should give us an accurate tally of course requests earlier than in the past which will help with staffing decisions and course developments. Scheduling of student classes begins in June, once fourth quarter grades, EOC results and Pupil Assignment changes have been reviewed.

There has been much shared recently regarding the current economic picture and the possible impact on schools for 2010-11. Board discussions are only beginning and any actual impact is likely several months away. Myers Park suffered significant losses this past year (mainly due to local funding) and our hope is that high schools will not be impacted significantly by the new state budget. We are currently working through the loss of 15 teachers for 2010-11 which is tied to the recent student reassignment.

Recruitment for next year occurs through the month of Janu-

ary. We continue to reach out to private school families and our feeder schools to share information about the strong instructional programs and opportunities found only at Myers Park.

This spring we are working with CMS Parent University to provide three unique evenings for parents. **Staying One Step Ahead of Youth Culture** will be presented Feb. 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This course is designed to educate parents to challenges facing their children in today's culture including their unlimited access to information. **CMS Study Island**, presented February 23, 6 to 7:30 p.m., is an online product used at Myers Park to help students master material. Parents receive a login name and password so students can take pre-tests, post-tests and study various topics. This is a good way to reinforce learning at home especially in EOC courses. **How to Talk so Your Teen will Listen**, March 17, 6:30 to 8 p.m., will provide useful information on communication including better listening skills. We hope to have a good turnout at these sessions. Mark your calendars!

While approved construction to the Gym and LA Building has been delayed to 2011, work on the tunnel (Briar Creek Project) continues albeit at a slow pace. Eighty percent of the project has been completed but crews have met soil and rock issues behind the Math and Admin Buildings. Tunneling will end and over the next 3-4 months the remaining 485 feet trenched in order to install the sewer pipe. We will monitor noise levels during the school day along with any traffic issues. A portion of Colony Road is scheduled to be closed February 12 -15 with the back-up date scheduled during Spring Break.

Our School Quality Review (SQR) is scheduled by March 8 & 9. CMS, working with Cambridge University, has been completing reviews for the past two years. The review is a snapshot used to discuss the quality of education and establish a view of strengths, areas for development, challenges and successes. March 9 is also the date of the tenth grade Writing Test.

We are just now finishing exams/EOCs but are pleased with the early results. Please be reminded that students can't receive credit for courses in which they miss more than 10 days. Recovery time must be arranged individually with the teacher.

— Tom Spivey  
Principal

## PTSA News

We are now halfway through the year! December really flew and second semester is now upon us. Allow us a minute to recap all that has happened in the last few months. There are more than 30 PTSA committees working hard to make things happen at Myers Park. Several have been particularly busy in recent months. None of the activities these committees spearhead could have occurred without the commitment and dedication of hundreds of PTSA volunteers. We truly thank each and every one of you!

We have hosted a large number of prospective students and their parents on campus through several programs and presentations. The Prospective Parents Committee coordinates events that introduce Myers Park to rising ninth graders and others transferring in from our feeder schools and the greater Charlotte community. A large Open House event was held in November and several campus tours have occurred after school. The last one was very well attended even with temperatures hovering around freezing and a threat of snow! Myers Park administrators, teachers, parents, and students do a great job in introducing our school to prospective students. Please let anyone know who might be interested that a **Prospective Parent Coffee** is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 28 at 9 a.m. in the Media Center.

The Outreach Committee worked overtime this holiday season as they helped so many of our Myers Park families. Gift cards for grocery and supercenter stores collected in November helped more than 100 families with Thanksgiving meals. In December many groups pulled together to assist more than **90 families** with Christmas gifts, food, and cleaning supplies. The administration building was full of packages and boxes that went out to these families. It was an enormous effort to coordinate all the gathering and delivering that such an effort entailed. It is no surprise that the need for such help has increased. We assisted over 20 more families than we did the prior year. Thanks to all the members of the Outreach Committee who worked so hard and to the many Myers Park families who provided the much needed gifts, food, and cleaning supplies.

The Staff Appreciation Committee also went into overdrive this holiday season. This committee made sure that every CMS employee on the Myers Park campus received a holiday surprise. Bus drivers were greeted

on one of their afternoon routes with a gift bag of treats. The cafeteria and custodial staff had a Bojangles lunch and received gift bags, and gift cards. The teaching and administrative staff was treated to an after school party at Maggiano's Restaurant complete with food, goody bags, and gift cards. Many of you made batches of holiday popcorn and donated the gift cards. The staff was very appreciative and had a great time.

We also want to thank the Program Committee for two terrific programs in January. They teamed with the Counseling Department at Myers Park to offer a program on college financial aid that was very informative and well attended. A session for understanding the PSAT was also offered for parents. Look for a workshop on essay writing for juniors in the spring. This is in response to a large number of requests we had for such a class after one was offered in the fall for seniors.

We are making progress in meeting our Priority Funds goal of \$95,000. We are 82% of the way there. Some of the items that have been or are going to be purchased with this money include Naviance College Guidance software for the Counseling Department, document cameras for LCD projectors for several MP departments, plagiarism software updates for the entire school, tennis racquets, and underwater plants for science experiments. We hope to touch all departments and every Myers Park student with the money you have donated to the Priority Fund.

Please visit the PTSA website at [www.mphs-ptsa.org](http://www.mphs-ptsa.org) for upcoming events and activities. The Myers Park Mustang Express e-mail newsletter is the best way to stay current with all the information and events occurring at Myers Park. Plan to attend Curriculum Night March 3 at 5:30 p.m. to be informed before registration begins. Spring College night will be offered April 20 and will also be our last PTSA meeting of the year.

Thanks to everyone who has supported Myers Park in some capacity whether it has been volunteering, giving to our fundraiser, or attending an athletic or performing arts event. Your participation is crucial for the academic success of our children. We look forward to a wonderful second semester working with you as our partners.

*Margaret Marshall & Beth Rayburn*  
*PTSA co-presidents*

## Mark your calendars!

"Pump up the BASS for A Child's Place:" Dancing For A Difference, in the Myers Park High School gym, Saturday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m. till 11:30 p.m. (no admission after 9 p.m.)

Tickets are \$20; proceeds benefit A Child's Place.

Spring Sport tryouts begin February 15. Sports include Baseball, Men's Golf, Women's Softball, Women's Soccer, Men & Women's Track, and Men's Tennis. Club Sports including Men & Women's Lacrosse and Rugby also are available. Students must have a 2.0 minimum grade point average, an up to date physical, proof of insurance, and 14 or fewer absences from the previous semester to participate in tryouts.

Mid year graduation is February 1, 5 p.m. at Bojangles Arena. End of Year graduation is June 12, 4 p.m. at Time Warner Cable Arena.

Prospective Parents Coffee - Jan. 28, Thursday at 9 a.m. in the Media Center  
This will be an informational session for parents of new and rising 9th grade students entering MPHS next year.

## Outreach Committee offers ways to share

**Outreach Monthly Project:** Each month, the Outreach Committee stocks Ms Hampson's office with a few bags of groceries, snacks, household supplies and toiletries for distribution as needed to MPHS students and their families. If you would like to participate by donating a few items—one-time or every month—please contact Susan Barnett ([sbbarnett@aol.com](mailto:sbbarnett@aol.com)) or Julie Hammond ([dhammondd@aol.com](mailto:dhammondd@aol.com)). Perhaps a school team or club could provide one month's or one type item as a group project!



## Mustang Priority Fund: Still moving toward our goal

We continue to work toward meeting our goal for the 2009-10 Priority Fund. That goal is an ambitious **\$95,000**. This is the one fundraiser for the PTSA! The monies raised are the only source of funding for the programs of the PTSA that support our teachers and provide enrichment for all our students. To date we have received \$69,165 in direct donations, \$8,125 from matching gift companies, for a total of **\$77,290**.

We still hope to reach our target of \$95,000 because all our teachers and students will benefit from the extra support these funds will provide. If you have not yet made a contribution, please consider making a gift to enrich Myers Park. Make your contribution payable to MPHS Priority Fund and send it to:

**Priority Fund**  
c/o Jane Fobel  
7106 Chadwyck Farms Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28226

(Don't forget to include a matching gift form, if you work for a company that has a matching gift program.)

Many thanks to our most recent donors:  
**Wild One - \$1000 +:** David & Lisa Boyle, Hal & Holly Levinson  
**Palomino - \$600 – 999:** Darryl & Beth Malak, Joel & Priscilla Walters, Dean & Lisa Warren  
**Bronco - \$300 – 599:** David & Mari Anne Allen, Bruce & Pat Boorman, Ronald & Sandra Boozer, Bobby & Mary Catherine Chesney, Bradley Kutrow & Jeanne Linquist, Richard & Sandra Magee, Allen & Connie Melvin, Allen & Michele Todd  
**Stomper - \$150 – 299:** Warren & Lorraine Bickers, William and Janet DeLoache, Scott & Mary Stewart Duffy, Bill & Kerry Flye, Phil Lanning, Rick & Janet Lyman, John McBride & Loretta Pendergrast, Kevin & Karen Molan, Geoff & Kathy Rose, Robert & Meredith Sherrill, Catherine Sink  
**Maverick - \$1 – 149:** Clay & Deidre Grubb, Darrell & Odette Smith, Sasha Trosch

## Thanks to our wonderful Counseling Team

Who makes sure your child has all their graduation requirements, helps juggle your student's schedule so it all fits, writes their college recommendations, has an open door for anyone who needs an ear, helps with scholarships and quietly offers support to students in any number of untold crises? That would be our 7 fabulous counselors and their team!

Feb. 1 through 6 is **National Counselor Appreciation Week**. We are so grateful to them and their dedication to each child's success.

Please let your child's counselor know how much you appreciate what they do and ask your student to do the same! It would mean a lot to have a note or a quick hello and thank you. The department has been downsized as you may know and each counselor has taken on more students, yet they get it all done! And don't forget Ms. Finewood who juggles a million things at that front desk!

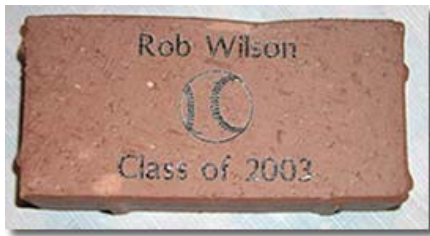
We are very lucky at Myers Park to have such a great counseling department. If your child doesn't know his or her counselor, this is a great opportunity for a brief visit!

## JROTC News

The cadets have been very busy in all associated extra curricular activities since the last published article — including the Color Guard, Drill Team, Rifle Team, and Academic Team. The Color Guard has participated in 15 school and community service events. The Drill Team has continued to improve with three top three finishes in six events in the South Rowan High School Invitational Drill Competition in November. The Rifle Team has competed in two competitions with one win (Hunter Huss High School) and one loss (Hopewell High School). This young Rifle Team is working extremely hard and is destined for greatness. The Academic Team is in the second phase of a National Academic Bowl Competition which consists of four phases — so far, so good.

In spite of the busy schedule and activities, the cadets have continued to demonstrate the values and character that the JROTC program holds dear and in many cases have clearly demonstrated “selfless service” and “personal commitment.”

But as the world turns in JROTC, the challenge ahead is the annual formal inspection on March 17. A team of inspectors from Fort Bragg will descend on the Mustang Battalion to verify the effectiveness, value and functions of the program — ensuring compliance with all directives and guidelines set forth by the U.S. Army Cadet Command. It's no small feat, but our cadets have been preparing for this major event since the beginning of the school year as the annual inspection is an accumulation of events and activities that sustain a program in order to maintain the Honor Unit with Distinction recognition. Predicting a favorable outcome, we look forward to sharing the results in the next Mustang.



## A Brick makes a Great Gift!

*It's always the perfect size and color ...*

Place your order for a commemorative brick (or several) for your favorite Mustang. The Myers Park High School experience will always hold a special place in the heart of your graduate. Commemorative bricks are a great way to leave a little piece of that heart behind at a place that meant so much. Bricks are also a great way to honor a special teacher, administrator, or coach.

Order forms can be found on <http://www.mphs-ptsa.org/> or [www.myersparkhighschoolsports.com](http://www.myersparkhighschoolsports.com) – click on “Bricks”. Contact Gayle Baker for more information at [gdavbaker@aol.com](mailto:gdavbaker@aol.com).

### Senior Parents:

We've all worked hard to get here, so honor your senior and yourself with a Senior Yard Sign! These signs cost just \$10 and all proceeds go to our PTSA.

Email Karen Reid at [karenreid@aol.com](mailto:karenreid@aol.com). Cash or check; make checks payable to MPHS-PTSA.



## The Future Center Consider the big “ifs”

**The Future Center is open** - Please come visit us across from the Attendance Office **Monday –Thursday during all four lunch periods and every Tuesday from 2:15-3:30 p.m.** Our parent volunteers are available to help you navigate through college choices, post-high school options, college testing and even scholarships. We know that this can seem overwhelming, especially for our seniors, but we are here to help you in the process. Here are a few reasons why you should visit the Future Center:

If you are a **Senior**, now is the time to meet with college reps, finalize your application list and prepare for scholarship interviews.

If you are a **Senior**, and interested in a military career, now is the time to review serve academy, ROTC and enlistment opportunities.

If you are a **Junior**, now is the time to create a schedule for standardized testing. Look at our timelines and determine when it would be best for you to take these important tests.

If you are a **Sophomore**, now is the time for you to begin planning for an academic internship. Ms. Collins is available every Tuesday to match your interests with internship opportunities.

If you are a **Freshman**, now is the time to begin exploring your future possibilities through a program called Career Cruising. We have 5 computers available for student to help you create a path for success through high school and into the world of work.

Parents are welcome to stop by as well and check us out!

For more information, please email Emily Ahlum at [eahlum@carolina.rr.com](mailto:eahlum@carolina.rr.com), Deb Borkey [debborkey@hotmail.com](mailto:debborkey@hotmail.com), or Sally Beth Sutherland [sbtsutherland@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbtsutherland@bellsouth.net).



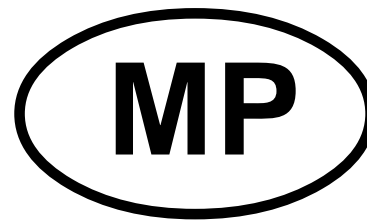
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